

Murfreesboro Police Department

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MPD Begins new program to stop aggressive, distracted driving

The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration estimates that about one-third of all crashes and about two-thirds of the resulting fatalities in the United States can be attributed to aggressive driving.

In response to the national statistics, as well as local traffic concerns, the Murfreesboro Police Department is adding to its comprehensive approach to creating safer roadways for motorists and pedestrians with the launch a new program aimed to reduce incidents of aggressive driving, road rage, traffic crashes, as well as serious injury and fatal crashes.

A team of officers will be aggressively seeking out drivers displaying characteristics of aggressive driving, which is commonly described as the commission of multiple violations that are likely to endanger persons or property or any single intentional violation that requires a defensive reaction of another driver, and prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law.

Some of the violations the Aggressive Driving Unit will be looking for and enforcing include: following too close, speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, and disregarding traffic signs and signals. Other violations the team will focus on are seatbelt usage, distracted driving (texting, and other behaviors that distract the driver), and noise violations. Noise violations from vehicles include loud stereos and loud exhausts that can be heard in a police vehicle with the windows rolled up, or across property lines.

Officers will be equipped with "street appearance" unmarked police cars, Radar, Lidar (laser speed detection), and an onboard video recorder to capture and record violators' behavior.

Chief of Police Glenn Chrisman stated: "This is another part of our goal of creating a better quality of life for our residents and visitors. This new initiative will help reduce dangerous driving behavior and will contribute towards the goal of improving safety on Murfreesboro roadways."